

MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume VI

March 9, 2014

No. 10

He Has Lost His Senses

T. Doy Moyer

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

"And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, 'He has lost His senses.' The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul,' and 'He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons'" (Mark 3:20-22).

Do you notice a similarity in the responses of these two groups toward Jesus?

The first group is his own kinsmen. They said Jesus had lost His senses. He's gone crazy, we might say. This is one of those check points in historical authenticity, called the principle of embarrassment. If later Christians were just making this up, why would they make up the idea that Jesus' own family thought He was crazy? The best explanation for this account is that this is what happened. His family thought He had lost His senses.

The scribes from Jerusalem are the second group. Their response to Jesus was not all that different from what His kinsmen said. They upped the intensity, though. "He is possessed by Beelzebul" or "an unclean spirit," they said (see also 3:30).

Why were so many talking of Jesus like this? Why would they think He had lost His mind or that He was possessed by the devil? Jesus was casting out demons. He was healing on the sabbath. Crowds were always around Him, pressing Him, making it difficult even to eat. They had seen nothing like this before. What else were they to think?

Remember that Mark's purpose is to demonstrate that Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 1:1,11). Looking at it from the outside, we know that the miracles and works of Jesus were intended to demonstrate that He is, indeed, the Son of God. But the people then weren't quite sure yet. They weren't gullible after all. They just didn't yet know how to process the idea that the Son of God had actually come into the world. It didn't

make sense to them, so their response was to project their uncertainty back onto Jesus.

Three possibilities are before us in the text.

1. He is crazy.
2. He is possessed by the devil.
3. He is the Son of God.

Which is it? Jesus responded to the charges in a way that showed He was neither crazy nor possessed. "And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house'" (Mark 3:23-27).

Jesus' response was rational, showing that He had not lost His mind. It was logical, demonstrating that it would not make any sense to think that He was possessed by the devil. Why would the devil defeat himself? That's the last thing he would try to do.

Jesus then turned to show how foolish their claims really were. Such ungodly claims carried great consequences: "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin - because they were saying, 'He has an unclean spirit.'" (Mark 3:28-30).

These were people who knew better. They saw the miracles, and they knew the only One powerful enough to do what Jesus was doing was God. But even knowing this, they accused Jesus of having an unclean spirit. This is why it was blasphemy, and once someone could see Jesus perform the miracles, know what the miracles implied, and then make such an accusation, their attitude would not permit forgiveness. What else could Jesus show them to prove that His identity? They were intent on rejecting Him. There was nothing else to do.

If Jesus was not crazy and did not have an unclean spirit, this leaves us with one option from the text: He is the Son of God! This was Mark's point all along.

-via *The Friendly Visitors*, Athens, Alabama.

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.

Can The Lord Return Today?

Whit Sasser

Yes, you read the title right. I said **can** the Lord return, not **may** He return, for as some of you may recall, in connection with a discussion about the doctrine of premillennialism, I recently said that I would like to ask the promoters of such if they believe Jesus can return today. Their preoccupation with the "sign" of the times and what they feel are indications that things are shaping up to an imminent return of the Lord, cause me to simply want to ask whether they feel He might return today. I get the impression that they must not think so, for the things are not yet in place to permit it.

Well, I was handed a little booklet recently called "Knowing God Through Thessalonians" written by Herb Vander Lugt, that begins this way: "I remember a conversation I had with some friends of mine at the outset of World War II. One of them asked, 'Do you think it's possible that Jesus might come tonight and deliver us from the mess we are in?' "No," I replied, "The signs of the end have not yet been fulfilled. Antichrist must rule the world for a short time before Jesus comes back.' We all agree that Jesus couldn't return yet."

I imagine that this would be a typical answer from many still today over 50 years later! The trouble is caused by the misuse of passages in the New testament referencing things to shortly come to pass in the first century and applying them to some current time or by taking Old Testament prophecies of the first coming of Jesus and applying them to His second coming. William Miller, of Adventist fame, boldly proclaimed the Lord's return October of 1844. Needless to say it didn't happen. Jehovah's Witnesses have predicted time and time again such a date, all of which have failed. But man doesn't quit. Many Protestant churches believe the happenings in the Middle East, the rise of a united European community, and other such things point to it coming soon.

The Bible teaches that the resurrection day, a day in which all will be raised, both good and evil, (John 5:28-29) will come as a thief in the night, unannounced and unexpected by many (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4). It will not be some sort of quiet snatching of people out of their shoes to the puzzlement of those who remain on

the earth. No, it will be heralded loudly by a trumpet of God, the shout of Jesus and the voice of an archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Doesn't sound like some mysterious disappearance of a few to me.

And as for the signs, I believe God has intended that every generation since Christ thinks that Christ just might return during their lifetime. In fact, not just in their lifetime, but on any day of their life. This stirs me to live righteously every day, for not only do I not know the hour of my death but neither do I know the day of the Lord's return.

Do not be deceived by the false doctrines of men that insinuate, or for that matter boldly claim, that the Lord cannot return today, for the signs are not yet fulfilled. Nothing prevents the Lord from returning before you finish reading this article. Get ready now and stay ready every day.

-via *Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.



Don't Miss Heaven

David J. Riggs

It matters not what else you do in life, if you miss heaven you have been a complete failure. You might gather about your great riches and fame and leave thousands of friends to mourn your departing, but if you are not ready for heaven you have been a miserable failure. On the other hand, you may die in a charity home for the poor and be buried in a potter's field without a friend to mourn, but if you receive heaven, your life was a marvelous success.

You can't afford to miss heaven for if you miss it, you miss all. It is the place of eternal rest (Hebrews 4:9-11) where pain, sickness, and death will not be known (Revelation 21:4). It is an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away (1 Peter 1:4). It is that city built by the living God (Hebrews 11-10).

You don't have to miss heaven. Humbly submit yourself to the will of God (Matthew 7:21). Let His

word guide you (2 Timothy 3:15) and let no man beguile you of your reward (Colossians 2:18). Overcome temptations (James 1:22) and suffer for His cause with rejoicing (Matthew 5:11-12). If you do these things, heaven will be yours someday for the God of heaven which cannot lie has promised it.

-via *Light*, Birmingham, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Fay Ferguson	Betty Bolton
Gayle Ball	Buddy Pepper
Marjorie Dunnivant	Robert & Mot Beasley
Crutcher Harbin	Gwen Bullock
Matt Poff	Joey Hinkle
Ray Kennedy	Michael Vaughn
Bennie Pepper	Hank Atwood
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Mark Hargrove	Carol Locke
Ava Brooke Campbell	Abby Gilbert
Jerry Taylor	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Howard
Charles Burns	

In The Hospital:

Fay Ferguson, Athens-Limestone Hosp.; ICU
Joan Stanford, Crestwood Hospital; rm. 363

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Louise Hardy, rm. 81-A Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Mable Crafts, rm. 100 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B
Billy Abernathy, rm. 93

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Wynell Casteel, at home

Lola Colwell, at home
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
 Betty Hasting, at home
 David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

TEACHER'S MEETING: There is a teachers' meeting scheduled for this afternoon at 3:15 for discussion of the upcoming Vacation Bible School in June. I hope that all of the teachers will plan to be present.

OUT OF TOWN: *The McLemores: Alvis and Ann* have been in the mountains this past week.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION: If you have had any changes in your information (phone number, address, email, etc.) please note the changes on the members card you fill out this morning.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: There is a gospel meeting beginning today at the **Westview church** in Hartselle. The meeting will continue through Friday evening. *Tim Sutton* will be the speaker... The **River Bend church**, west of Florence, is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker in this meeting.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group One will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of March 2nd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 129
 Morning Worship 177
 Evening Worship..... 116

Wednesday:
 Bible Classes..... 105

Gospel Meeting

April 20-24, 2014

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m; 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
 Monday through Thursday- 7:00 p.m.

Dee Bowman, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
 Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Ross Melvin
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Marty Adams
 Serving Russ Wulfekuhl James Johnson
 Keenon Currier Dan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Norman Brown
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 9th:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, March 12th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading Mark 12:13-17
 Danny Johnson
 Prayer Keith Hinkle
 Invitation Jordan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Sunday, March 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marcus Morris
 Assisting Tommy Coblenz
 Serving Marvin Putman ... Nathaniel Adams
 Jonathan Keenon Bart Brown
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 16th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews